CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for treating an autoimmune disease of the mouth, comprising topically contacting the mouth of a patient in need of such treatment with a formulation consisting essentially of an effective amount of azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine nucleotide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said formulation includes azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in a solution or suspension at a concentration between 0.5 and 50 mg/ml.

6. (Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered at a dosage between 50 and 250 mg/day.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered in a solution or a suspension.

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said formulation is administered in the form of a member selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a lollipop, a pellet, a cream, a gel, an ointment, a quick dissolving tablet, gum, or a mucosal adhesive.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of topically contacting includes rinsing the mouth of said patient with said formulation for at least one minute; and swallowing said formulation after said step of rinsing.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of topically contacting includes rinsing said mouth with said formulation for at least one minute, and thereafter expectorating said formulation without swallowing.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disease of the mouth is lichenoid changes and aphthae associated with acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

19. (Amended) A method for preventing an autoimmune disease of the mouth, comprising topically contacting the mouth of a patient in need of such treatment with a formulation consisting essentially of an effective amount of azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine nucleotide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said formulation includes azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in a solution or suspension at a concentration between 0.5 and 50 mg/ml.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered at a dosage between 50 and 250 mg/day.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said azathioprine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered in a solution or a suspension.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said formulation is administered in the form of a member selected from the group consisting of a lozenge, a lollipop, a pellet, a cream, a gel, an ointment, a quick dissolving tablet, gum, or a mucosal adhesive.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of topically contacting includes rinsing the mouth of said patient with formulation for at least one minute; and

swallowing said formulation after said step of rinsing

28. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of topically contacting includes rinsing said mouth with said formulation for at least one minute, and thereafter expectorating said formulation without swallowing.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said autoimmune disease of the mouth is lichenoid changes and aphthae associated with acquired immune deficiency syndrome.